

Nebraska Weather & Crops

Issue NE-CW3604, released September 7, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - http://www.usda.gov/nass/.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending September 5, 2004, crops moved toward maturity but at a slower than normal pace, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Above normal temperatures and wind conditions last week continued to stress dryland crops. Producer activities included cutting silage, preparing for fall harvest, fall wheat seeding, and harvesting alfalfa.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged from 2 to 7 degrees above normals. Precipitation occurred across most of the state. Most stations reported amounts of less than one-half inch although many Panhandle stations reported amounts greater than one inch.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:

Nebraska, Week Ending September 5, 2004									
	This	Last	Last	Aver-					
	Week	Week	Year	age					
		Percent							
Topsoil									
Very Short	33	29	58	40					
Short	38	43	30	32					
Adequate	29	28	12	27					
Surplus	0	0	0	1					
Subsoil									
Very Short	43	41	54	43					
Short	31	39	35	31					
Adequate	26	20	11	25					
Surplus	0	0	0	1					
Days Suitable	6.8	6.1	6.7	6.2					

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 3 percent very poor, 7 poor, 17 fair, 50 good, and 23 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 84 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 56. This compares to 73 and 10, respectively, a year ago. Ninety-four percent of the acreage had reached the dough stage, just behind last year at 96 and average at 97. Sixty-four percent had dented, behind last year at 73 and average at 80. Three percent of fields were considered mature, behind last year at 12 and average at 19.

Soybeans condition declined and rated 4 percent very poor, 12 poor, 30 fair, 44 good, and 10 excellent, still well above last year and average. Thirty-two percent of the acreage was turning color, same as last year but behind average at 40. Plants had dropped leaves on 7 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 8 and average at 13.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 5 percent very poor, 13 poor, 38 fair, 37 good, and 7 excellent, still well above last year and average. Ninety-eight percent had headed out, ahead of last year at 93 and average at 97. Fields were showing color on 37 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 47 and average at 60. Two percent of the acreage was mature, same as last year but behind average at 10.

Dry bean conditions declined and rated 6 percent very poor, 15 poor, 25 fair, 43 good, and 11 excellent. Twenty-five percent

had turned color, well behind last year at 67 and average at 69. Ten percent had dropped leaves, well behind last year at 29 and average at 40. Four percent were harvested, behind 6 last year and 13 average.

Proso millet harvest was 6 percent complete, well behind last year at 28.

Wheat seeding was 8 percent planted to date. Near last year at 9 and average at 6.

Alfalfa conditions rated 13 percent very poor, 20 poor, 28 fair, 32 good, and 7 excellent, above last year and average. Third cutting activities progressed to 87 percent complete, behind last year and average at 92. Fourth cutting activities were 8 percent harvested, behind last year at 11 and average at 14.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending September 5, 2004

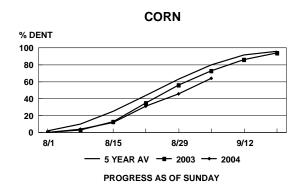
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Crop	This	Last	Last	Aver-
	Week	Week	Year	age
		Perce	ent	
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	8	2	11	14
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	87	82	92	92
Corn Dough	94	92	96	97
Corn Dent	64	46	73	80
Corn Mature	3	1	12	19
Sorghum Headed	98	93	93	97
Sorghum Turning Color	37	26	47	60
Sorghum Mature	2	0	2	10
Soybeans Turning Color	32	14	32	40
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	7	2	8	13
Wheat Seeded	8	1	9	6

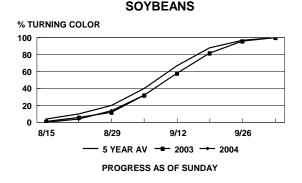
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending September 5, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel- lent		
			Percent				
Alfalfa	13	20	28	32	7		
Corn	3	7	17	50	23		
Sorghum	5	13	38	37	7		
Soybeans	4	12	30	44	10		

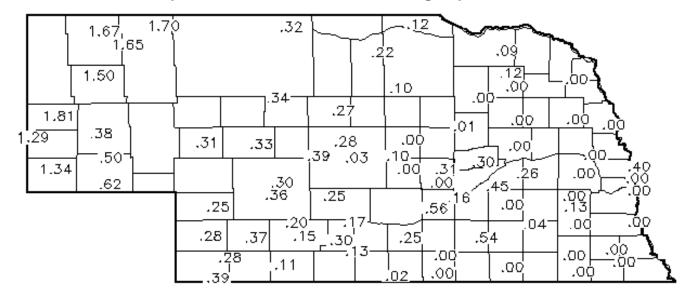
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 16 percent very poor, 27 poor, 30 fair, 26 good, and 1 excellent, but remained above a year ago and average. Dusty conditions were becoming a problem in feedlots.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm.





Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending September 5, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 5, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week 1	1.23	.24	.05	.20	.14	.22	.13	.07
Total since April 1	11.24	13.35	15.85	14.14	14.68	16.02	14.01	16.61
Normal since April 1	11.98	14.93	17.15	16.31	18.31	14.27	16.14	19.09
Total as % of normal	93%	89%	92%	86%	80%	112%	87%	87%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, September 5, 2004

	C4-4:	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
Station		Extremes High Low		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
NW	Alliance	93	47	66	+2	109	1955	2288
1111	Scottsbluff	92	46	67	+2	113	2108	2284
	Sidney	93	48	67	+2	115	2016	2358
NC	Ainsworth	94	49	72	+5	145	2203	2600
110	Arthur	91	49	69	+2	123	2040	2511
	O'Neill	96	49	75	+7	154	2240	2678
NE	Concord	91	52	72	+4	147	2237	2748
112	Elgin	94	50	73	+5	153	2277	2701
	West Point	91	53	72	+3	147	2384	2852
C	Grand Island	91	53	73	+5	152	2474	2678
•	Lexington	93	52	74	+7	156	2550	2623
	Ord	94	50	74	+6	152	2374	2655
EC	Lincoln	92	59	76	+6	173	2734	2939
_	Central City	90	51	73	+5	152	2470	2722
	Mead	91	52	73	+3	154	2543	2917
SW	Champion	93	46	70	+3	127	2254	2538
	North Platte	91	46	72	+5	145	2339	2574
	Curtis	92	50	73	+6	146	2439	2580
SC	Smithfield	90	53	72	+4	147	2420	2632
	Minden	91	52	73	+5	150	2511	2650
	Red Cloud	93	55	75	+7	160	2660	2706
SE	Beatrice	91	55	74	+4	159	2681	2939
	Clay Center	89	53	72	+4	148	2469	2703
	Nemaha	90	60	75	+5	169	2776	2947

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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